UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/258,302	02/26/1999	MASAYUKI INOUE	501.36884X00	3656

20457 7590 11/07/2003

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1800
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889

EXAMINER	
LASTRA, DANIEL	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3622	

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/258,302	INOUE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DANIEL LASTRA	3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 October 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-44* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-44* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 21-44 have been examined. The Application 09/258,302 has a filing date 2/26/1999 and foreign priority of 03/03/1998.

Response to Amendment

2. This office action is in response to an Amendment and RCE filed 10/3/03. The present Amendment amended claims 21-29 and 36, left claims 30-35 and 37 unchanged and added new claims 38-44. The present Amendment did not put claims 21-44 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaragi et al (U.S. 4,885,788) in view of Mori et al (U.S. 5,659,166).

As per claim 21, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus for registering information of a store which participates in a point system, and for providing the store with a register store number *for identifying the store* and *a crypt* key *of the store for encrypting data*, both of

said register store number and said crypt key of the store being peculiar to the store (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the registered store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches an IC card that has a memory having a plurality of storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store,* for processing data, *including point data* encrypted by said *crypt* key *of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application*, and for managing access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said *crypt* key *of the store* (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card

that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, and the predetermined number of points is converted into a number which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Takaragi IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 22, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use by a store *which is assigned* a register store number *for identifying the store* and *a crypt* key, *of the store for encrypting data,* both of *said register store number and said crypt key of the store being* peculiar to said store (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other

stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access their specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches a management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store,* for processing data, *including point data,* which is transmitted from outside of said memory of said IC card, *and* encrypted by said *crypt* key *of the store using said crypt key of said IC card*, and for managing access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point

data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 23, Takaragi et al teach:

A method of issuing point data to an IC card, the method comprising the steps of:

permitting said IC card *to be* inserted into a reader and writer, which has *a crypt* key *of a store for encrypting data* and a register store number *for identifying the store*, both of *said register store number and said crypt key of the store being* peculiar to the store (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each different store to access their specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from other stores.

Takaragi teaches wherein said IC card includes a memory having a plurality of storage areas, each of which stores point data, and a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store* (see figure 1B); and

transmitting to said IC card point data encrypted by said *crypt* key *of the store*, and *decrypting the encrypted* point data by said point management application *using said crypt key of the point management application* and *allowing* access to one of said point storage areas, which corresponds to the store, *by said register store number* (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 3, lines 55-67 – column 4, lines 1-12). Takaragi does not teach of the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 24, Takaragi et al teach

A method of transmitting point data to an IC card with a reader and writer of a store, the method comprising the steps of:

permitting said IC card *to be set* into said reader and writer *of the store* which *is uniquely assigned the crypt key of a store for encrypting data* and a register store number *for identifying the store*, said IC card including a memory which has plurality of point storage areas for storing said point data, and a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing* said point data and *managing* access to said point storage areas *by said register store number* (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30; column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teaches that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches inputting *to the IC card* point data encrypted by said *crypt* key *of the store*, said point data being issued corresponding to a customer's use (see column 3, lines 60-67);

decrypting the encrypted point data by said point management application *using said crypt key of the point management application* (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 3, lines 59-67);

and storing the decrypted point data into one of said point storage areas in accordance with said register store number by said point management application (see column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 25, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus which registers a store which participates in a point system, and which provides the store with a register store number *for identifying the store and crypt key of the store for encrypting data*, which are peculiar to the store (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30; column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches an IC card having a memory which includes a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key, using said crypt key of the point management application, managing* access to

each of said point storage areas by said register store number and *securing* a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 8, lines 25-31); and

a reading and writing apparatus, which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number *and said crypt key of said store* (see column 3, lines 50-67 – column 4, lines 1-15; column 7, lines 14-42, figure 6). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 26, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use (see figure1B); and

a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to a crypt key of a store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing* to each of said point storage areas by said register store number, *and securing* a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time (see column 2, lines 1-25, column 3, lines 55-67, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 27, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

point system management apparatus which registers stores which participate in a point system, and which provides each of the stores with a register store number, *and a crypt key* which are peculiar to the store, and *which controls a plurality of said stores as a group and* provides to the group of stores a group number which is peculiar to the group (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi does not expressly teach a group transaction area where several stores would save their transaction data. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if Takaragi has different transaction areas in the same IC card, it would have a transaction area that would be used by several stores. The stores would have the same encipher key to

access that area and would save their data in the same transaction area (see column 2, lines 17-25). This feature would help stores to share data between them.

Takaragi teaches an IC card having a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each storing point data which is assigned by each of the stores corresponding to a customer's use and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores corresponding to a customer's use *of a store in the group*, and a point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing* access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number, and *managing* access to said group point storage area by said group number and a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number, said group number *and said crypt key of the store* (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as

taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 28, Takaragi teaches:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by stores each having a register store number *and a crypt key* which are peculiar to said store corresponding to a customer's use, and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by stores *within a group of stores* having a group number which is peculiar to the *group* corresponding to a customer's use *of stores of the group* and point management application, *having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing* access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and *managing* access to said group storage area by said group number (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is

used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi does not expressly teach a group transaction area where several stores would save their transaction data. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if Takaragi has different transaction areas in the same IC card, it would have a transaction area that would be used by several stores. The several stores would have the same encipher key to access that area and would save their data in the same transaction area (see column 2, lines 17-25). This feature would help stores to share data between them.

Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori.

Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 29, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 22, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory (see column 2, lines 1-30; column 8, lines 25-30).

As per claim 30, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas (see column 8, lines 25-30).

As per claim 31, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area (see column 3, lines 55-67 – column 4, lines 1-15; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 32, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 33, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas (see column 8, lines 25-32).

As per claim 34, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area (see column 3, lines 59-67 – column 4, lines 1-7; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 35, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 22, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area (see figure 3, item 61).

As per claim 36, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application writes *crypt* key peculiar to the new store when securing the point storage area for the new store (see column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 37, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area (see column 8, lines 25-31).

Claim 38 contains the same limitations as claim 21 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 39 contains the same limitations as claims 21 and 22 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 40 contains the same limitations as claim 36 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 41 contains the same limitations as claim 36 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 42 contains the same limitations as claim 27 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 43 contains the same limitations as claim 27 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Claim 44 contains the same limitations as claim 27 therefore the same rejection is applied.

Response to Arguments

4. The Applicant's arguments filed on 10/03/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that Takaragi merely teaches about an IC card that is used in a public key system which allows for the transfer the crypt key

used to encrypt or decrypt data between various terminals and the IC cards, and the Applicant argues that his application differs from that taught by Takagari because his application is directed to a common key system wherein the same key is maintained in secret at the terminal and the IC card respectively. The Applicant further argues that the key is not transferred between the terminal and the IC card, thereby avoiding any security lapses in the system. The Applicant further argues that according to his application, the crypt key is kept secret and is guarded at each of the respective locations, namely the terminal and the IC card.

The Examiner answers that Takaragi teaches in column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 48, the following: "A first object of the present invention is to provide an IC card which is capable of protecting the data in different transaction areas in the IC card... In order to achieve the above first object, the present invention carries out the below-mentioned processing in writing data onto, or in reading data from, the transaction areas of the IC card. i) The IC card administrator prepares in advance sets of encipher keys and decipher keys for a number of the transaction areas that are to be kept secret, and prepares a master decipher key for all of the decipher keys. ii) The IC card administrator assigns an encipher code and a decipher key code for each of the transaction areas, writes an available upper-limit amount of money and the encipher key code or the decipher key code on a portion of the transaction area, and encrypts the transaction area using the encipher key. iii) The IC card administrator hands the IC card over to the user. The IC card administrator further hands the encipher keys and the decipher keys to the respective individuals stores so that they can encrypt and decipher the

transaction areas. Owing to the above-mentioned procedures (i) to (iii), different encipher keys and decipher keys are held by the different stores. Therefore, a given store is permitted to process only the transaction areas that correspond to the encipher key and the decipher key held by that store from among the plurality of transaction areas contained in the IC card. This makes it possible to protect the privacy of the user. The IC card administrator holds the master decipher key which is capable of deciphering all of the transaction areas in the IC card. Therefore, the master decipher key can be used should the individual decipher keys be lost." Furthermore, column 8, lines 25-31 teach the following: "Data such as the name of merchandise and the amount of money are encrypted with encipher key codes that are different for each of the stores, and are written onto the IC card. Therefore, the situation in which the card is used in one store is kept for other stores, and privacy of the user is protected." Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Takaragi does not transfer the crypt key used to encrypt or decrypt data between various terminals and the IC cards because the same crypt key is maintained in secret at the terminal and the IC card respectively.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 703-306-5933. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W STAMBER can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

D.L.

Daniel Lastra

October 16, 2003

JAMES W. MYHRE
PRIMARY EXAMINER